

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-4, 6, and 13 without prejudice or disclaimer:

1. (Amended) A substantially pure population of human ovarian mesothelial cells wherein said ovarian mesothelial cells have a pluripotent capacity to differentiate into ovary surface epithelial cells or granulosa cells.

2. The ovarian mesothelial cells according to claim 1, wherein said ovarian mesothelial cells maintained in nutrient media retain the pluripotent capacity to differentiate into ovary surface epithelial cells or granulosa cells.

B¹ 3. (Amended) The ovarian mesothelial cells according to claim 1, wherein said ovarian mesothelial cells are identifiable by the expression of at least one cell marker.

4. (Amended) The ovarian mesothelial cells according to claim 3, wherein said cell marker is a cytokeratin.

B₂ 6. (Amended) The ovarian mesothelial cells according to claim 5, wherein said ovarian mesothelial cells further express vimentin as a cell marker.

9.13. (Amended) A method of providing a source of nucleic acids or proteins in a development of bioassays comprising isolating nucleic acids or proteins from the human ovarian mesothelial cells as recited in claim 1 and using said nucleic acids or proteins as one or more of the principal component in the bioassays.

B